

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM

FILE

March 28, 1959

TO: G - Mr. Murphy

FROM: EUR - Livingston T. Merchant

SUBJECT: Berlin Contingency Planning - March 30th Tripartite Meeting

Another Berlin contingency planning meeting with Ambassadors Caccia and Alphanand is scheduled for Monday, March 30th at 3:00 P.M.

The immediate occasion for this meeting is presumably to hear the views of the British and French Governments on the contingency planning paper based on our aide-memoire of December 11 and our memorandum of February 18 (Tab A)

French Views

Ambassador Alphanand requested that this meeting be held in order that he might convey his Government's views. We have no clear indication of what these views are.

British Views

We may assume that the British views were conveyed in the meeting of the President and Prime Minister Macmillan. However, the British Embassy has given us a short memorandum (Tab B) indicating that they will suggest changes of our paper to: (1) permit a train or convoy held in the Soviet Zone to comply with GDR demands as a last resort in order to extricate itself, and (2) to take into consideration the British view that stamping of documents by GDR personnel would be an acceptable part of identification procedures. (Heretofore, we have opposed both "last resort" dealings of this type and stamping by GDR personnel).

It is recommended that you raise the following matters during the meeting:

1. U.S. - U.K. Minute

The White House and the British have concurred that the agreed minute on the discussion of contingency planning (Tab C) between the President and Prime Minister Macmillan may be passed to the French. Copies will be available in the meeting. It probably would be well to refer specifically to the statement in paragraph 7 of the minute that it is consistent with and supplementary to papers which the U.S. had circulated earlier (i.e. Tab A). We understand Ambassador Caccia intends to make this point if you do not.

12/2
35
Rev
Out

901068-193

762.00/3-2859

CS/ERP

FILED

CLASSIFIED FILE

762.00/3-2859

~~SECRET~~

- 2 -

2. Report to NATO

Copies of the Draft Report to NATO on Berlin Contingency Planning (Tab D) which we have recommended the Acting Secretary propose to the British and French Foreign Ministers will be available for advance distribution to the Ambassadors during the meeting.

3. Instruction re Air Access

It was agreed during the last meeting (February 28) that an additional paragraph should be inserted in our paper instructing the Embassies at Bonn to proceed with various aspects of air access contingency planning. State and Defense have agreed on a draft text for such a paragraph (Tab E), and copies will be available for distribution during the meeting.

4. Identification Procedures

The study of identification procedures which is being carried out by the Three Embassies at Bonn is proceeding very slowly. You might suggest that instructions be sent to the Embassies urging them to make their recommendations as soon as possible. You might add that we need these recommendations if we are to take a further look at the difficult stamping question.

5. Unilateral U.S. Measures

We understand that the British may refer to the statement made during the last meeting regarding measures which the U.S. proposed to take unilaterally and inquire what has been done. The only clear information we have on this point is (1) that the number of convoys on the Autobahn have been increased and (2) that, after protesting against our use of military police to escort our convoys through the Soviet checkpoints, the Soviets have offered to perform such escort functions themselves. We understand that the British may also ask for information regarding our flights above 10,000 feet in the Berlin corridors.

Concurrence - GER - Mr. Hillenbrand (in draft)
T.M. 11

EUR:GER:GPA:TDMcKiernan:jcg
T.M. 11

90 1068-194